

REMARKS

In the Final Action, claims 4-9 and 21 were allowed. Also, claims 10, 11, and 14-16 were rejected as obvious over the Yoshida reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,786,505) in view of the Hill reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,696). Claims 17 and 18 were rejected as obvious over the Yoshida reference in view of the Hill reference and further in view of the Uchida reference (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0113416 A1). With this Amendment, the Applicants submit that the rejections have been rendered moot.

In particular, in the Action, the subject matter in claim 12 was deemed allowable. To expedite the case to issuance, as it has been pending for over two years, the allowable subject matter of claim 12 has been incorporated into new independent claim 22 with claims 10-12 being cancelled. Claims 14-18 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 22.

Also, in the Action, claims 19 and 20 were rejected as obvious over the Staub reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,059,312) in view of the Hill reference. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the same. Namely, the Examiner cited the first chamber 18 and the second chamber 20 for teaching the claimed primary and secondary chambers, as well as the upper and lower sub-chambers of the primary chamber. It will be appreciated the two chambers 18 and 20 cannot be reasonably relied on for teaching all of the four claimed chambers. Thus, none of the prior art, whether taken individually or in any permissible combination, discloses the primary and secondary chambers with the primary chamber having the upper and lower sub-chambers.

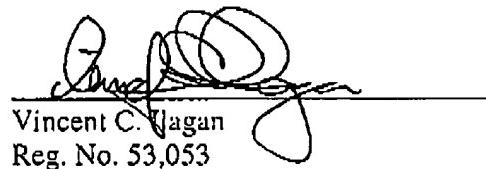
In addition, the Examiner stated that the Staub reference (col. 4, lines 11-13) discloses the airbag inflating in a generally linearly upward direction from the primary chamber to the secondary chamber. However, in the Staub reference, Figures 1 and 2 therein illustrate top cross-sectional views of the airbag as the airbag inflates rearward from the second chamber 20 to the first chamber 18, rather than in an upward direction.

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In view of the foregoing, all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 4-9 and 14-22, are in proper form and patentably distinguish from the prior art. Accordingly, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issuance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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